

*****REMINDER*****

**Charleston Bump closed to pelagic longline gear
February 1, 2002, through April 30, 2002**

On August 1, 2000, NMFS published a final rule (65 FR 47214) that prohibited pelagic longline fishing at certain times and in certain areas within the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of the Atlantic Ocean and in the Gulf of Mexico. Among other things, this final rule implemented an annual closure from February 1 through April 30 of the Charleston Bump. Accordingly, the Charleston Bump will be closed from February 1, 2002, through April 30, 2002, for all vessels that hold permits for Atlantic swordfish, sharks, and tunas and that are using pelagic longline gear. The Charleston Bump closed area is defined as: the Atlantic Ocean area seaward of the inner boundary of the U.S. EEZ from a point intersecting the inner boundary of the U.S. EEZ at 34°00' N. lat. near Wilmington Beach, North Carolina, and proceeding due east to connect by straight lines the following coordinates in the order stated: 34°00' N. lat., 76°00' W. long.; 31°00' N. lat., 76°00' W. long.; then proceeding due west to intersect the inner boundary of the U.S. EEZ at 31°00' N. lat. near Jekyll Island, Georgia.

Pelagic longline gear is defined as: (1) a power-operated longline hauler, (2) a mainline, (3) floats capable of supporting the mainline, and (4) leaders (gangions) with hooks (March 30, 2000; 66 FR 17373). Pelagic longline is considered to be on board a vessel when all four components are on board the vessel.

This FAX notice is a courtesy to the HMS fishery participants to help keep you informed about your fishery. Official notice of Federal fishing actions is made through filing such notice with the Office of Federal Register. For further information contact Karyl Brewster-Geisz (301) 713-2347.

Bruce Morehead for
John H. Dunnigan
Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries

2/1/02
Date

